

McELROY MAC-KEY SERIAL NUMBERS

copyright Tom French, W1IMQ - Last updated May 2015 (W8FIB added Feb. 2020 by OH6NT)

Linking to this page is welcome. And feel free to copy and reproduce it for non-commercial collector purposes, provided that credit to Tom W1IMQ is mentioned. Be aware your copy (if not updated) may become slightly out of date as I continue to add information.

This list does not contain every Mac-Key serial number; just all of those I am aware of. It is based on over thirty years of collecting McElroy bugs (Mac-Keys) and accumulating information on the keys owned by others, or seen in various places (hamfests and eBay, for example). It updates and expands the list at Appendix E of my McElroy book (see this page for information on the book).

The quantity of keys listed in each group give a good idea of the relative scarcity of the models and variations. The list may also be used to identify your Mac-Key model by using its nameplate type and material, base finish, and serial number, and comparing them to those on the list, but your key should also be verified by comparison to the photos.

Lately I have begun including ownership information on the bugs. A date after the owner's ID usually indicates when the owner acquired the bug (or sometimes when I added the bug to the list). An arrow --> indicates to whom it was transferred.

The various key models are illustrated in photographs on the Mac-Key page link given here.

I have incomplete information on those models missing a variation letter (1936, 1938), so these may not be in their correct sequence.

Please read the NOTES at the bottom of the page. These will explain some differences and the variations in the bugs.

Nameplate styles The "small" plate says "T.R. McElroy." The Navy plate is self-evident. The "large" plate says "Theodore R. McElroy." The plate used on the late bugs (P-500, A-400 and Streamspeed) has no serial number; so these models are not listed. For pictures of the bugs and nameplates, see the Mac-Key page (referenced above).

A caution to collectors. All of the 1934, 35 and 36 models say "9-34" in the cast legend on the bottom of the base. This leads some to think that a 1936 model, for example, is a 1934 model. These bugs can only be differentiated by their design, plate material or (using the list below) serial number.

If your key does not appear here, or to correct a listing, please submit the following information (see home page for mail or email addresses):

..model, or better: photographs of the top, pivot, and left side of the bug.

..nameplate type (and material, if early small plate)

..serial number

..any other information, see list for examples

Model S/N Comments

Small brass plate

1934	5401	possibly... (hard to read) see ad QST Dec 1934 p. 88
1934	5406	Warren K2UV
1934	5450	

The cast legend underneath the base includes "GAD" for "guaranteed." Starting in the later 1935 bugs, a hole was made through the base for the lower pivot screw; this eliminated the D leaving the letters GA.

- 1935 5402 Shallow vee, GAD, one large weight. Later '35 with 2 paddle screws. Ted McElroy --> John KC1MI --> 1999 Tom W1IMQ --> 2013 Jan SM5LNE
 - 1935 5510 Shallow vee, GAD plate is longitudinal and faces left; plated pivot, 2 small weights. Earliest '35: has one screw holding paddles. Tom W1IMQ
 - 1935 5515 Shallow vee, GAD longitudinal plate facing left (Doug Palmer via ebay 10/08)
 - 1935 5517 Shallow vee, GAD longitudinal plate facing left. (eBay 2/07)
 - 1935 5535 Shallow vee, GAD
 - 1935 5548 Shallow vee, GAD
 - 1935 5555 Shallow vee, GAD (info de Fred KT5X)
 - 1935 5587 Shallow vee, GAD
 - 1935 5599 Shallow vee, GAD plate faces left. K5VT estate, W2PM 7/11
 - 1935 5665 Deep vee, GA, plate faces left. Larry N6LM 2/07.
 - 1935 5669 Deep vee, GA, nameplate faces left. Warren K2UV, 8/06
 - 1935 5687 Deep vee, GA, nameplate faces right. Pete W2PM, Jan 2014
 - 1935 5702 Shallow vee, GAD, plate is longitudinal and faces left. Missing knob and paddle (ebay 1/10; won by Gil Schlehman)
 - 1935 5731 Shallow vee, GA
 - 1935 5751 Shallow vee, GA
 - 1935 5754 Shallow vee (at <http://www.americanradiomuseum.org/site/> info from N7CFO)
 - 1935 xxxx Shallow vee, GA; plate missing
 - 1935 5771 Deep vee, GA
 - 1935 5779 Deep vee, GA
 - 1935 5792 Bought by W8FIB from eBay
 - 1935 5793 Deep vee, GA (Lynn, N7CFO, now owned by W8FIB)
 - 1935 5798 Deep Vee, GA, nameplate is longitudinal and faces left
- 1936A:** This has the cast brass pivot assembly as on earlier Mac-Keys, and a U-shaped bar holding the fixed dot and dash contact screws. Some will appear with the brass parts cad plated. The early 1936A bugs have a two-piece, or "split", connector bar.
- 1936A 5033 Two paddles, split conn bar. Broken damper casting. ebay March 2012, won by John W7COI
 - 1936A 5060 Two paddles, split conn bar. K5VT estate --> W1IMQ 2010 --> sold 2014
 - 1936A 5081 Two paddles, split conn bar. Tim K4TJP
 - 1936A 5084 Two paddles, split con bar, with original wood box. Tom W1IMQ
 - 1936A 5089 Two paddles, split con bar
 - 1936A 5636 Two paddles, split conn bar. Tom W1IMQ
 - 1936A 5800 Two paddles, split conn. bar, one weight. The lower pivot screw hole is beveled into the A of GA. ebay 12/2014

1936A 5110 knob/paddle

1936A 5114 Two paddles, set screws in weights, home-made wire dot stab. Ray W2SD estate --> Lou K2EAI 5/07 --> Johnny AC0BQ --> Jim W0EB 4/14

1936A 5117 Two paddles, term holes in base, missing weights and feet

1936A 5118

1936A 5162 Two paddles

1936A 5167

1936A 5173 Two paddles

1936A 5235 Two paddles.

1936A 5243 Connector bar repaired, 3 small holes in T bar. (K5VT estate, ebay 12/2011)

1936A 5269 Pin jacks and extra holes added to base; paddles not original

1936A 5271 Two paddles, complete, two plated steel weights. Bill, W4HEX, 10/08

1936A 5278 Knob and paddle (paddle may not be original); one weight. (ebay Dec 2006)

1936A 5281 Missing knob(?)

1936A 5283 Two paddles, with Bayside St. box .. Ray WB6L

1936A 5288 Two paddles, large and small weights, exc cond. ex-W1IQH/W2DGV (1938-1995)

1936A 5296 Two paddles (ebay 11/05), ebay 8/2010 with a paddle and replacement knob (but "will be sold with original paddles").

1936A 5321

1936A 5335 Cast damper support broken and missing (VT estate 2010, ebay 10/2011)

1936A 5371 Two paddles

1936A 5390 Cast left hand base; missing knob(?)

1936A 5400

1936A 5739 Nice condition. Phill N0OE 3/2012

1936A 5801

1936A 5812

1936A 5825 (1936A based on written descr)

1936A 5861 (on ebay from VT estate 2011)

1936A 5887 Paddle and knob, both weights, cad plated parts, exc condition. Gerry W7ES -> Tom W1IMQ 5/2014

1936A 5894

1936A 5896

1936A 5917

1936A 5925 Complete, nice condition Fred KT5X

1936A 5931

1936A 5949 Two paddles. One weight. K5VT estate (on ebay june 2011)

1936A 5958 Missing knob

1936A 5965 One weight, no pendulum clip. Otherwisevery good. (on ebay nov 2012)

1936A 5978
1936A 5979
1936A 5995 Two paddles (home made?), one weight. Paul Mendes, P'town 9/08; on ebay 4/2010.

Small aluminum plate

NOTE: The 1936A and 1936B serial numbers intermix in some areas.

1936A 6548
1936A 6518
1936A 6569 Looks blue (completely painted) including nameplate (assumed to be aluminum) (ebay feb 2009)
1936A 6573 Broken and repaired U-bar. Includes box. (VT estate 2010, on ebay 6/11)

1936A 6597 HB terminals added, base letters damaged
1936A 6603 Complete; repro pendulum clip by VK2IXV. (Herman Willemsen VK2IXV, ex-John K4NP)
1936A 6624 Two paddles
1936A 6649
1936A 6665 Complete, near mint. JEff KE0MT (11/07), on ebay 11/2011, 7/2012
1936A 6696 Missing weights and pendulum clip; on ebay 10/2012
1936A 6727 One weight. VT estate, on ebay 7/2011
1936A 6737 Exc. condition, two large weights, with box. VT estate 2010; on ebay 8/2013
1936A 6673 One weight, two non-original paddles. On ebay 2/2008
1936A 6780 One weight, otherwise complete, original. On ebay 4/2010
1936A 6831 (W1IMQ May 2006)
1936A 6834 One weight, custom paddle (on ebay 7/2010)
1936A 6856 Has two added holes that go thru the "E" in "KEY" underneath (Ebay 10/05)
1936A 6867
1936A 6911 (Model assumed from SN) missing pendulum and weights (Joe WA2USJ Dec 2011)
1936A 6935 No weights. Jeff KE0MT
1936A 6974 One weight, wrong paddle. K5VT estate, on ebay 7/2012
1936A 6984 (VT estate 2010)
1936A 6985 Rusty screws. John Knowles railroadians auction NH 4/10; on ebay 5/10
1936A 6994
1936A 7026
1936A 7028 Given to Don Hawley W4ZU by Ted McElroy in September 1937 (W1IMQ collection)
1936A 7037
1936A 7044 Appears complete and in good condition. (on ebay may 2014)
1936A 7049

1936A 7051 Pendulum removed (conv. to paddle?)

1936A 7052

1936A 7098 Pete W2PM

1936A 7124 One weight. Otherwise appears complete, and nice. on ebay Feb 2008

1936A 7129 Terminals added at back left corner. (ex- SK w9nfk - w5few

1936A 7161 One weight; missing knob. Includes box (ebay 11/2010)

1936A 7191 Paddle not original. On ebay 10/2012

1936A 7254 Terminals on base. T.R. McElroy --> John KC1MI (SK) --> W1IMQ 4/1999 --> Alex HB9DTA 4/2014

1936A 7293 K5VT estate; ebay 8/2011

1936A 7305 Good cond., one weight. Has rare tapped pendulum end with a threaded insert (6-32 thread) for an extension. Brad KA1GDG (now W1AY) --> Tom W1IMQ 8/1993 had 1.25" extension reproduced --> Greg G4YZX 5/2014

1936A 7310

1936A 7340

1936A 7345 Rebuilt

1936A 7355 One weight; with unmarked cord and wedge. On ebay March 2007

1936A? 7356 Pivot type assumed to be A

1936A 7370

1936A 7375 K5VT estate, ebay 7/2011

1936A 7385

1936A 7389 Complete, very good condition. On ebay 5/2012 (seller Dave Pennes?)

1936A 7412 Entire key overpainted aluminum color

1936A 7420 Missing knob, weights; plate worn. Dirk KB1HKN

1936A 7460

1936A 7553 Knob (?)

1936A 7650 (Aluminum plate assumed) Bill K0CDJ

1936A 7665

1936A 7677 One original weight plus a large homebrew weight (ebay 11/2011)

1936A 7694 Poor nameplate; hole in base and corner of plate; nonoriginal paddle (ebay 4/10)

1936A 7777

1936A 7819 John G0RDO

1936A 7849 Complete except no weights (ebay 1/2012)

1936A 7861 Both weights, missing knob and paddle (VT estate, on ebay 10/2011); on ebay 8/2013 with replacement knob, Lionel paddle, feet.

1936A 7862

1936A 7878

1936A 7880 Looks very nice; one original weight, small hole in top T-bar. Put on ebay April 2013 by George VE6CX, given to him in 1958 at age 18.

1936A	7916	
1936A	7920	With box (hinges added to lid). K5VT estate, ebay 7/2011, Jim K5MSY
1936A	7926	Good condition. One weight. (ex-WA2BCR, 11/08 Fabio IK0IXI K3QS)
1936A	7930	
1936A	7938	
1936A	8127	Complete, original. Dave WA3LKN
1936A	8130	Complete with both weights, VG condition. (Rick Royston, Santa Rosa Beach FL 7/2010; he put it on ebay 9/2014)
1936A	8163	HB terminals at left rear
1936A	8200	
1936A	8215	Good cond, complete, both weights, nameplate appears lifted on one side (ebay --> W1IMQ 4/2014)
1936A	8208	One weight, nice condition. ebay 11/2010
1936A	8257	Original, complete, excellent. ex-Tom Stack WQ5J ... 5/2007 now Gary Harmon K5JWK
1936A	8260	Complete, original, vy nice condition. ebay feb 2014
1936A	8281	
1936A	8283	Very good cond., one weight. ebay aug 2014
1936A	8291	One large weight. ebay jan 2015
1936A	8357	
1936A	8437	On ebay 3/2012
1936A	8444	HB terms on left side
1936A	8441	Homebrew damper arm
1936A	8477	Appears complete, nice cond., two large weights. (K5VT estate, ebay Dec 2012)
1936A	8482	
1936A	8508	
1936A	8514	
1936A	8520	Ckt closer and terminals added
1936A	8524	
1936A	8532	Two weights, missing knob
1936A	8544	
1936A	8556	Complete with two weights, brass parts cad plated. Mark M6BRN
1936A	8574	Homebrew damper
1936A	xxxx	Eves Radio decal (no plate), Eves was a dealer in England (Tom W1IMQ)
<u>1936B:</u>		The pivot assembly uses folded steel stock, with separate pivots for the main and dash levers.
1936B	5931	Late, with base terminals
1936B	5987	Base terminals
1936B	6534	

1936B	6637	Base terminals	
1936B	6652		
1936B	6974	Base terminals	
1936B	6976	Base terminals. Broken damper casting (factory? work-around added). Dave WA3LKN Oct 2007	
1936B	7008		
1936B	7069	Base terminals. Excellent condition, with box. Pericle IK2UIZ Feb. 2011	
1936B	7013	Base terminals. Good condition, complete. (on bay jan 2012)	
1936B	7073	"Scanlon" scratched on T-bar, circuit closer added. (On ebay 10/2010)	
1936B	7075		
1936B	7085	Needs good cleaning. On ebay 9/2014	
1936B	7089	(No base terminals) Rich W6UDS Jan 2014 2015 --> sold on ebay by 73vwsuperbug 4/2015	--> Chris KJ4MPT Jan 2015
1936B	7091		
1936B	7093	No weights.	
1936B	7096	Nice condition. Has lead for weights. Said to be from N&W; RR Depot Pamplin VA (Phill N0OE 8/2012)	
1936B	7225	Thru pins for plate	
1936B	7235	Base terminals	
1936B	7260	Base terminals (VT estate, on ebay 4/11)	
1936B	7268	Base terminals, one weight, nice condition (ebay 6/08)	
1936B	7381	Base terminals, two weights, paddle appears to be older type Vibroplex. Was offered on ebay 5/11 by Matt N7EG	
1936B	7506	No terminals. Knob replaced with a paddle. (on ebay 11/2012, 7/2013, 2/2014)	
1936B	7509	(VT estate 2010)	
1936B	7510	Base terminals; one weight, missing knob (ebay 5/06)	
1936B	7655	Dave WA3LKN	
1936B	7681	Base terminals	
1936B	7697	Base terminals	
1936B	7768	Zinc finished parts	
1936B	7839	Standard terminals. Gerry W7ES	
1936B	7991		
1936B	8115		
1936B	8120	Nice condition, 2 weights. (ebay Dec 2012)	
1936B	8145	Very nice, both weights, terminals on base. (sold on ebay 6/2013 by G3TSS)	
1936B	8327	Base terminals, restored base finish and parts. (Tom W8FIB obtained 6/06 ebay)	
1936B	xxxa	Base terminals, no plate, never had one. Richard Meiss WB9LPU and others	
1936B	xxxb	Base terminals, no plate	
1936B	xxxc	No terminals on base; brass finished parts	

1936B xxxe Base terminals

Navy plate

The nomenclature on the plate is CMK-26009; these keys have "property of U.S. Navy" cast on the left side.

NAVY 60 ckt closer, stay cord eye between terminals (Lynn N7CFO)
NAVY 75 ckt closer, stay cord eye between terminals (Tom W1IMQ)
NAVY xx plate missing (Tony Rogozinski) small aluminum plate (Quotes give left side casting.)

This is the commercial version of the Navy bug. There are a few variations. Most common is the "property of" keys that have "US Navy" ground off; a few of these are cast blank after "property of" (if unstated below, I have no information). Some have "mfd in Boston Mass USA" cast on the side, while the rarest has the left side entirely cast blank. At least one of these keys has a circuit closer (if unstated, I have no information).

1937 6718 "Property of" ("US Navy" ground off)
1937 6789 "mfd in Boston Mass USA"
1937 6842 "Property of" ("US Navy" ground off), very nice condition (sold on ebay 6/2013 by G3TSS to Jim GW0BBO)
1937 6925 "Property of" remainder appears cast blank. One weight, two non-original paddles (ebay 1/2014)
1937 6964 "mfd in Boston Mass USA"
1937 7187 "Property of", has circuit closer. One weight, modern (phillips) paddle screws, 2 small screws on right side of base, unusual looking nameplate. ebay --> Greg G4YZX July 2014
1937 7207 "mfd in Boston Mass USA"
1937 7212 "mfd in Boston Mass USA", no ckt closer (W1IMQ)
1937 7215 "mfd in Boston Mass USA" (John SM5EDX Sweden, March 2007)
1937 7423 "Property of" (remainder appears cast blank, "W" stamped under paint) ebay 9/2012
1937 7480 "Property of" (possibly remainder cast blank) ebay Feb 2012
1937 7489 "Property of" ("US Navy" ground off)
1937 7493 "Property of" ("US Navy" ground off)
1937 7561 No legend (cast blank) (Possibly T.R. McElroy --> John KC1MI --> W1IMQ 1991)
1937 7577 "mfd in Boston Mass USA"
1937 7633 "Property of" ("US Navy" ground off)
1937 7721 "Property of" ("US Navy" ground off). John G0RDO
1937 7726 "Property of" ("US Navy" ground off)
1937 7754 "Property of" remainder cast blank? (poor view). On ebay 5/2012
1937 7755 "Property of" remainder cast blank?
1937 7790 "Property of" (Lynn Cannady 5/06)
1937 7803 "mfd in Boston Mass USA", no ckt closer (Pete W2PM 5/2010)

1937	7884	"Property of" ("US Navy" ground off)
1937	7899	"Property of" remainder appears cast blank. (Derek G3HSV 8/09)
1937	7947	"Property of" rest probably cast black (poor photo) very nice condition. (ebay may 2010)
1937	7996	"Property of" (Alex, XE1CK, he put it on ebay 2/07, 1/09)
1937	8142	"mfd in Boston Mass USA". No ckt closer. Repainted. (Dave WA3LKN, from ebay 10/08)
1937	8262	"Property of" ("US Navy" ground off); has ckt closer
1937	8264	"Property of" rest cast blank. Unusual nameplate appears stripped of color. Odd pivot frame, it has no ears, similar to A-400 frame but no humps. Has ckt closer. (on ebay 8/2014)
1937	8270	"Property of" (rest cast blank, "James R. Holt" printed in the space.) Has ckt closer. Hole drilled in base nicks nameplate. (W1IMQ 2007 --> William A. Campbell, FL, 2014)
1937	8363	"Property of" (then stamped by owner "L.O.
1937	8380	"Property of" remainder appears cast blank, name lightly stenciled there. No ckt closer. Nice condition, one weight. On Ebay 5/2012, 2/2014
1937	8397	"Property of" remainder cast blank; no ckt closer. (W1IMQ 1991 --> Claudio IZ0KRC 2014)
1937	8402	"Property of" ("US Navy" ground off) ebay 5/07

Large plate models

Notations on the bugs below re dot stabilizers or circuit closers is for informational purposes. No conclusion should be drawn from the lack of a notation.

The 1938 and 39 Deluxe models have the marbleite base, the Standard, models have a black wrinkle base. However on some early 1938A Deluxe models the marbleite overfinish is poor or non-existent and the base appears black. The best and most beautiful marbleite finishes are on the later 1939 Deluxe models.

The 1938 Deluxe models typically came with a circuit closing switch and a dot stabilizer. The early dot stabilizer (a pre-loading device on the pendulum dot spring) was the large type; later a thin type was used.

1937 391 This unique 1937 (Navy) type key has "James Michael Kane" cast on left side, and a 1938 "Deluxe" model large plate. Possibly a McElroy employee had this made, or Mac made it for a friend. Considering the nameplate and that it was found with a metal McElroy carrying case (rare) it probably dates to early 1938. Bought on ebay July 2010 by Merv K9FD.

Unkonwn variation (A or B type pivot lever):

1938	604	Deluxe, dot stab; check pivot type
1938	1500	Deluxe, thin dot stab
1938	1712	Deluxe, shorting switch

The 1938A has separate pivots for the dot and dash levers.

1938A	214	Deluxe, poor finish, large dot stab (K5VT estate, ebay --> W1IMQ 7/2011 -- Alex HB9DTA 4/2014)
1938A	225	Deluxe, black, dot stabilizer
1938A	229	Deluxe, black, large dot stabilizer

1938A 237 Deluxe, large dot stabilizer (VT estate 2010)

1938A 238 Deluxe, Marbleite, large dot stab. Not orig paddle; one weight (Bob KB1JJD; ebay 10/09; now Greg DF2IC)

1938A 342 Deluxe, Marbleite, dash bar gone, large dot stab.

1938A 347 Deluxe, poor Marbleite, large dot stabilizer (K2UFT)

1938A 392 Deluxe, ckt closer, black crackle

1938A 1730 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stab, U-bar cut and rewired. "W4PCO" scratched on bottom. (KC1MI --> Tom French W1IMQ 4/1999)

1938A 5220 Standard,

On the 1938B the dot lever has lugs which fold over the dash lever, to share one pivot (as on the later Vibroplex bugs).

1938B ---- Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stab; no number on plate (more than one known; including one without a stablizer)

1938B 321 Deluxe, large dot stab/. one weight. Gerry W7ES

1938B 420 Deluxe, large dot stab.; no ckt closer (sold by W1IMQ on ebay 6/2013)

1938B 426 Deluxe, no ckt closer. Has large dot stab

1938B 485 Deluxe, with ckt closer and large dot stabilizer

1938B 497 Deluxe

1938B 503 Deluxe

1938B 508 Deluxe, large dot stab.

1938B 509 Deluxe. Found in the crawl space of a house in Edgerton MO. Appears to have a large dot stab. No knob, paddle, weights.

1938B 517 Deluxe, with ckt closer. No dot stab

1938B 540 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stab

1938B 550 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stab (2008: Fabio, IK0IXI)

1938B 565 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stab, all chrome + nameplate; no knob or paddle, 1 weight (2012 Fabio IK0IXI)

1938B 651 Deluxe, ckt closer, dot stab type unknown, missing weights and knob (ebay Dec 2006)

1938B 672 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stab. Homebrew paddles. Brass weight & term nuts. Nice Marbleite. (W1IMQ 4/09)

1938B 689 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stab

1938B 703 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stab (F. Skinner KA4JQZ 6/06)

1938B 731 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stab

1938B 760 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stab. Homebrew paddles. (Wayne VE1BAB 5/2014)

1938B 769 Deluxe, large dot stabilizer, NO circuit closer. (John, G0RDO)

1938B 788 Deluxe, ckt closer; thin (?) dot stab

1938B 802 Deluxe, large dot stab

1938B 811 Deluxe, large dot stab. Appears mint. (sold on ebay by G3TSS 6/2013)

1938B 819 Deluxe, thin dot stabilizer

1938B 823 Deluxe, thin dot stabilizer. No weights (ebay3/09 ex Don Iverson)

1938B 830 Deluxe, large dot stab. No shorting switch (ebay 10/07)

1938B 839 Deluxe, large dot stabilizer; complete, nice (ebay March 2007)

1938B 850 ? Deluxe, thin dot stab., circuit closer. Poor (or dirty) nameplate. Ebay 12/2014

1938B 852 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stabilizer

1938B 853 Deluxe, large dot stab; missing ckt closer

1938B 858 Deluxe, thin dot stabilizer, ckt closer, both weights. Not much marbleite finish, non-original paddles. (Richard Sharisky 4/08)

1938B 863 Deluxe, large dot stab, ckt closer. One weight, broken paddle, 1 wire nut missing. Otherwise nice (ebay oct 2014)

1938B 881 Deluxe, large dot stab. One weight (on ebay 5/2012)

1938B 882 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stabilizer (ebay 9/2006)

1938B 893 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stabilizer. Nice, original, both weights. (ebay 9/2014)

1938B 910 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stabilizer, nice, original, both weights. Ex-Rudolph Frantik --> daughter Karen Corzine

1938B 919 Deluxe, large(?) stab., missing knob, paddle, one weight, fair finish (Denton, W3KS, Dec 2008)

1938B 928 Deluxe. large ckt closer. Replacement paddles, terminal nuts, added weights. (VT estate; on ebay 6/2012)

1938B 933 Deluxe, base finish needs restoration. (Tom WA0POD 5/07)

1938B 953 Deluxe, thin dot stab., exc. cond, wrong paddle (VT estate, on ebay 4/11)

1938B 960 deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stab., complete, nice. John VE2EQL 4/2013

1938B 961 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stab, poor plate, poor finish, one weight (on ebay 2/2014)

1938B 968 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stab., Plate on upside down (Randy, AA2U May 2007)

1938B 969 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stab. (Tom French W1IMQ)

1938B 971 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stab. Nice, complete. (Lyle WB0MHH 5/2014)

1938B 1024 Deluxe, large dot stab, ckt closer. (Barney W1QA, Joe W1RRN about 1978, to Neil K6SMF 2008, to Mel W6 ?, to John K2TQN 2010)

1938B 1036 Deluxe. No wgts, damaged damper

1938B 1037 Deluxe. Thin dot stab, ckt closer. No weights. (Rick, KE7UXE, Aug 2008)

1938B 1045 Deluxe. Large dot stabilizer. On ebay 10/2010

1938B 1046 Deluxe, ckt closer, large Stab, RCMP owner's tag

1938B 1098 Deluxe, thin stab; ckt closer

1938B 1100 Deluxe, ckt closer

1938B 1112 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stab; 3 incorrect wire terminals. K5VT estate, ebay 10/2011

1938B 1115 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stab. Complete, original, few chips on T-bar. (on ebay July 2014)

1938B 1120 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stab ?

1938B 1123 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stabilizer

1938B 1129 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stab

1938B 1149 Deluxe, ckt closer, large dot stab; poor finish, one weight, replaced paddle (12/2013 Nick 2E0BPU)

1938B 1158 Deluxe, ckt closer, dot stab. (Dave WA3LKN)

1938B 1165 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stab. Wrong paddle, otherwise nice cond. (Nick 2E0BPU 10/2014)

1938B 1199 Deluxe, ckt closer, dot stab.

1938B 1219 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stab.

1938B 1246 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stab. Both weights, chipped finish (broken paddle ebay 9/10;) (ES paddle ebay 6/12)

1938B 1253 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stab.; 3 holes in T-bar (factory?)

1938B 1264 Deluxe, ckt closer; no dot stabilizer; poor finish; missing knob. (ebay 4/09)

1938B 1269 Deluxe, ckt closer; no dot stab; chips on tee-bar; two Speed-X or Vibro paddles (5/09 Alex T77Z)

1938B 1282 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stabilizer. Complete, nice. Ron McMullen from ebay Aug 2006

1938B 1297 Deluxe, closer; thin stab; hole in nameplate

1938B 1305 Deluxe, thin stabilizer

1938B 1308 Deluxe, thin stabilizer

1938B 1313 Deluxe, thin stabilizer

1938B 1316 Deluxe, no dot stab, wrong paddle (ebay 6/11)

1938B 1321 Deluxe, no dot stab, otherwise complete, scratch on plate? (on ebay 3/10 with box)

1938B 1337 Deluxe, ckt closer, both wgts, thin stab, with box (no lid) ebay 7/2012

1938B 1338 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stab, with metal McElroy carrying case! (David N1EA 7/2013 "I used this bug during SOS of Prinsendam in 1980")

1938B 1371 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stabilizer (lynn n7cfo put it on ebay 1/2008)

1938B 1386 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stab, replaced paddle and one weight, top left of bar chipped. (Cap W0CCA)

1938B 1398 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stab. (missing finger?). Replaced paddle, one weight. (ebay 8/06)

1938B 1425 Deluxe, thin stabilizer; broken paddle

1938B 1446 Deluxe, with stabilizer

1938B 1458 no stabilizer

1938B 1463 Deluxe, thin stabilizer, 2 paddles, 2 weights (one screw incorrect). Nice plate and finish. (David KK4DW)

1938B 1469 Deluxe. (thin stab?) Complete. (VT estate, on ebay 1/2012)

1938B 1475 Deluxe, with box, exc. cond. Thin stab. Leon ON6ZJ estate ==> 6/2011 Tom ON4TOM ==> 5/2015 Jos ON6WJ

1938B 1515 Deluxe, ckt coser, thin stab. Nice cond. (on ebay by W3SJ Oct 2010; by K7PKG oct 2011; bought on ebay by Jim N5KY 6/2013)

1938B 1517 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stabilizer

1938B 1525 Deluxe, ckt closer, no dot stabilizer. Nice condition (Ebay 1/07)

1938B 1546 Deluxe, thin dot stab, vg condition. (G3TSS put it on ebay 7/2013)

1938B 1554 Deluxe, thin dot stab, vg condition, unusual Marbleite. Don WB6BEE 4/2014

1938B 1595 Deluxe, thin stab (? hard to see in photo)

1938B 1596 Deluxe, thin stab, ckt closer. Missing paddle. W1UK estate, on ebay 9/2010

1938B 1569 Left handed Deluxe factory mod. No stab or closer

1938B 1605 Deluxe. ckt closer (has thin stab. ?) (ebay Nov 2011)

1938B 1607 Deluxe. ckt closer, thin dot stab. One weight. Good condition. ebay 11/2014

1938B 1611 Deluxe (refinished black crinkle) no closer, no stab.

1938B 1613 Deluxe

1938B 1633 Deluxe (on QTH.com for sale by NR1R) B version not verified

1938B 1638 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stabilizer

1938B 1640 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stab., very poor finish and plate

1938B 1658 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stabilizer

1938B 1666 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stabilizer (ebay June 2007)

1938B 1672 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stab, K5VT estate (ebay July 2011)

1938B 1679 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stab. nice cond. On ebay 12/14

1938B 1717 Deluxe, ckt closer, orig knob and paddle missing. Thin stabilizer. (sold on ebay 6/2013)

1938B 1721 Deluxe, thin stab, dupe SN at top of plate

1938B 1731 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stab, one weight, with box. Ex-Jan Edwards W5EV, ebay 8/10 by K5EF

1938B 1738 Deluxe, thin stab, 175 Congress on box

1938B 1751 Deluxe, no dot stabilizer, one weight, missing knob (ebay feb 2013)

1938B 1753 Deluxe, thin dot stabilizer (VT estate 2010)

1938B 1764 Deluxe, ckt closer, (dot stab?), poor condition

1938B 1772 Deluxe, no circuit closer; thin dot stab

1938B 1776 Deluxe, ckt closer, dot stab. W1IMQ --> sold

1938B 1794 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stabilizer. With box (ebay 8/06)

1938B 1804 Deluxe, thin dot stabilizer. Poor finish (VT estate; ebay 1/13)

1938B 1808 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stabilizer, with box, mint! Tom K4NCG

1938B 1823 Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stab, 175 congress

1938B 1842 Deluxe, ckt closer, thi stab. Chip in T-bar, otherwise very nice. Ebay 8/2014

1938B 1851 Deluxe, no dot stab, on weight, wrong paddle, otherwise nice, ebay 3/11

1938B 1886 Deluxe, thin dot stab

1938B	1903	Deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stab, Customized w/red fittings! (ebay 5/07 & 9/07 from France)
1938B	1908	Deluxe, thin dot stab, wrong paddle & knob Graham, Scotland, ex?-GM6JEQ, June 2006
1938B	1934	Deluxe, thin dot stab
1938B	1935	Deluxe, thin dot stab, ckt closer, clear (replaced) paddles Phil VE3LNE
1938B	1941	Deluxe, thin dot stab, ckt closer. ex-Murray Willer collection
1938B	1979	Deluxe, thin dot stab, ckt closer. One weight, Vibroplex knob and paddle. (eBay 1/08)
1938B	1996	Deluxe
1938B	2000	Deluxe, thin dot stab, ckt closer. wrong paddle & weight. (ebay nov 2014)
1938B	2006	Deluxe, shorting sw., thin stabilizer, VE5WO label
1938B	2016	Deluxe, no dot stab
1938B	2027	Deluxe, ckt closer; thin dot stab. Paint loss on plate, otherwise like new. (Murray Willer ---> 1992 Tom French W1IMQ)
1938B	2045	Deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stabilizer
1938B	2068	Deluxe, ckt closer; dot stab.
1938B	2113	Deluxe, thin dot stabilizer. Poor finish (Jan/2014 Rich W6UDS --> on ebay 1/2015)
1938B	2122	Deluxe, ckt closer; thin dot stab, complete, nice Marbelite, one chip. (David Arnold's father, WWII, RCAF)
1938B	2124	Deluxe, ckt closer; no dot stab
1938B	2158	Deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stab. Complete, original, 2 weights. (ebay 4/2014)
1938B	2172	Deluxe
1938B	2200	Deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stabilizer John Snell G0RDO
1938B	2210	Deluxe, ckt closer; thin stab; one weight; no knob
1938B	3182	Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stab. Complete, poor finish on base and nameplate
1938B	3234	Deluxe, ckt closer, thin dot stab, both weights, paddle tip missing. Jeff KE0MT 11/07, on ebay 7/2012
1938B	3215	Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stab, one weigh, no paddle (ebay 5/11)
1938B	3250	Deluxe, ckt closer, thin stab
1938B	3251	Deluxe
1938B	3431	Left-handed Deluxe (factory modified right-hand casting); ckt closer, no dot stabilizer. (Tom French W1IMQ)

NOTE: The 1938 Standard, did not come with a dot stabilizer or a circuit closing switch. Any notes to that effect below are merely for confirmation.

1938B	5018	Standard, cosmetically only fair (ebay sept 2012)
1938B	5033	Standard, (Peter, SM5HUA -- he added a homemade dot stabilizer)
1938B	5068	Standard, Appears complete, original, good condition (ebay 8/2014)
1938B	5077	Standard, pivot shaft is a drill bit! John KO4XJ, June 2008

1938B	5133	Standard,Complete, original, excellent. Harold Kramer WJ1B, ex-Dave Ingram K4TWJ
1938B	5136	Standard, very good, complete except for weight screws, Jim KY4Z, June2012
1938B	5151	Standard,
1938B	5152	Standard, good condition, hot connector strip replaced with wire, otherwise complete. (ebay feb 2014)
1938B	5158	Standard, rough condition, not original paddle/knob, one bridge lug broken, hot bar replaced, insulating washers replaced. Label very worn. Owned by OH6NT
1938B	5163	Standard, condition as new, all original except a weight screw. Dual weights. Owned by OH6NT
1938B	5189	Standard, complete, nice. (On ebay Dec 2011)
1938B	5205	Standard, Rough condition. Rich WB9LPU July 2006
1938B	5225	Standard, (VT estate 2010, ebay 8/2011, Fabio IK0IXI)
1938B	5236	Standard,
1938B	5261	Standard,
1938B	5272	Standard, complete, 2 weights, original but for the weight screws (ebay 12/09, 2/10)
1938B	5274	Standard, one weight. (knob and paddle reversed) Walt Jones K0EYN ex-ebay 1/08
1938B	5282	Standard,
1938B	5306	Standard, incorrect weight screw and damper, otherwise nice condition (Pete N8PR 12/2012)
1938B	5319	Standard, complete, 2 weights; paddle and knob reversed
1938B	5320	Standard, - Bobbi KB9GKX
1938B	5330	Standard, nice condition, but missing both weights. On ebay 5/08
1938B	5355	Standard,
1938B	5376	Standard,
1938B	5378	Standard, missing paddle, knob. K5VT estate, ebay 7/2011
1938B	5377	Standard, missing weights, paddle and knob; wrong dot spring screw
1938B	5378	Standard, (K5VT estate 2010)
1938B	5439	Standard, complete, surface rust (charles gagnon KC2OOD aug 05: purchased by my father in law, John F. Tatlock VE2GY, probably in the late 30s. He thinks it was purchased brand new.)
1938B	5444	Standard,AI W1XH bought 1980s from Ken Pratt original buyer (info 9/2011).
1938B	5449	Standard, (K5VT estate 2010)
1938B	5460	Standard,
1938B	5517	refinished gray hammertone by John C. McElroy (Ted's son)
1938B	5526	Standard, nice condition. (ebay oct 2011)
1938B	5535	Standard,
1938B	5541	Standard, four weights
1938B	5545	Standard, (AWA 2005 Bob)

1938B	5548	Standard, one weight
1938B	5606	Standard, Fahnestock clips on terminals, knob replaced by a second paddle (ebay Feb 2009)
1938B	5614	Standard,
1938B	5615	Standard, one weight, no dot stab. Stamped W.R. Crooks on damper (ebay 9/08, Fabio IK0IXI)
1938B	5644	Standard, complete, looks good (ebay jan 2012)
1938B	5647	Standard,
1938B	5649	Standard, nice condition (non-original paddle). John Schouten 9/2014
1938B	5671	Standard, (K5VT estate 2010)
1938B	5676	Standard, chromed parts, 1/4" Deluxe contact screws (3/16" contacts). John GORDO
1938B	5705	Standard, large weight and small weight
1938B	5716	Standard, .
1938B	5735	Standard, .
1938B	5747	Standard, Nice condition, one weight. Ebay 11/2010. ebay 4/2012 by Del Clouser
1938B	5752	Standard, John K4NP (8/06) Paddle replaced.
1938B	5773	Standard, Original, complete, nice condition. (For sale on ebay by "we300b" 6/09)
1938B	5795	Standard, no dot stab. ... Ebay 11/06, 12/14. Appears complete and nice.
1938B	5803	Standard,
1938B	5832	Standard, Mike VE3FGU
1938B	5848	Standard, exc. condition (Lou W8SSI who bought it prior to WWII, info 2/10 via Don WA8TWM)
1938B	5850	Standard, no damper or ground terminal, 1 weight, broken paddle (ebay 3/09 ex-Don Iverson)
1938B	5862	Standard, wrong paddle
1938B	5876	Standard, nice condition
1938B	5878	Standard, in England
1938B	5884	Standard, good cond., 2 weights (paddle may be early Vibroplex). ebay June 2010, Sept 2010
1938B	5907	Standard, modified into a paddle; in England 10/05
1938B	5925	Standard, missing paddle. Has both weights and pendulum extension (?) On ebay Aug 2014
1938B	5935	Standard,
1938B	5939	Standard, (ebay June 2007)
1938B	5941	Standard,
1938B	5946	Standard, complete, nice condition. (sold on ebay 6/2013 by G3TSS)
1938B	5970	Standard, many missing parts (parts key). Wire terminals are on left side of base. (ebay 8/2014)

1938B	6003	Standard, (K5VT estate 2010)
1938B	6024	Standard, one weight, no paddle, base has surface rust. on ebay sept 2010
1938B	6025	Standard, one weight, home-made paddle. K5VT estate, on ebay 7/2-12
1938B	6018	Standard
1938B	6045	Standard
1938B	6069	Standard, nice cond, wrong paddle, one weight (K5VT estate 2010, Del Clouser, ebay 7/2011)
1938B	6052	Standard, homebrew ckt closer
1938B	6123	Standard, no ckt closer or dot stab. One weight. ebay 10/2014 (finish appears gray on photos)
1938B	6149	Standard, no ckt closer or dot stab. Complete, nice nameplate, base finish discolored. (ebay 6/09)
1938B	6164	Standard, no ckt closer or dot stabilizer. Appears complete (ebay 3/10)
1938B	6167	Standard, no ckt closer or dot stab. nice cond., both weights, with box (ebay 8/2013)
1938B	6172	Standard
1938B	6174	Standard, no dot stabilizer. Dave WA3LKN, oct 2007
1938B	6190	Standard
1938B	6195	Standard
1938B	6226	Standard
1938B	6230	Standard, no dot stab, no ckt closer (ebay 10/08)
1938B	6274	Standard, nameplate appears stripped, is affixed to base with screws (eBay 10/06)
1938B	6292	Standard, 1 weight, 2 homebrew paddles, otherwise excellent (RADIO 44 Westford MA show 2013)
1938B	6335	Standard
1938B	6359	Standard, nice cond, all original, both weights. On ebay 12/2013 by WB4KQN
1938B	6369	Standard

Note: A circuit closer was normal on the 1939 Deluxe models, but they typically did not have a dot stabilizer. Notations on the Deluxe or Standard, 1939s below re "no dot stab" or "no ckt closer" is for informational purposes. No conclusion should be drawn from the lack of a notation.

1939	xxxx	Deluxe, no nameplate, bought at Ft. Monmouth
1939	3233	Deluxe, missing paddle and cc knob. (Steve, KZ2I, Jan. 2010)
1939	3235	Deluxe, no (never had) ckt closer
1939	3239	Deluxe, thin dot stabilizer. Complete, near mint. (Max MOGHQ; Sept 2007)
1939	3243	Deluxe, thin stab, complete, near mint. W1IMQ
1939	3244	Deluxe, thin stabilizer. Exc. condition; chip on right T-bar (ebay 2/11)
1939	3270	Deluxe, complete, perfect finish and nameplate. (W1IMQ collection)
1939	3300	Deluxe, complete. Has thin dot stabilizer.

1939	3301	Deluxe, complete, white knobs and paddle. Thin dot stabilizer. (ebay 6/08)
1939	3323	Deluxe, paddle missing. 2 weights + large brass weight. No dot stab? (ebay 12/09)
1939	3324	Deluxe, complete, 2 weights, good condition, no dot stabilizer. (ebay 2/2014 sold \$60 1 bid)
1939	3348	Deluxe, missing pendulum, knob, terminal nuts. Nice base... (ebay 12/7)
1939	3349	Deluxe, one weight, otherwise complete and near mint (W1IMQ collection)
1939	3355	Deluxe. K5VT estate, ebay 7/2011
1939	3388	Deluxe
1939	3461	Deluxe, no stabilizer. Excellent condition, complete. With box. Stamped on the box is 'JOSEPH GENERAL 35 PARK STREET CAMBRIDGE MASS' (on ebay Feb, July 2014)
1939	3480	Deluxe, wrong paddle, no knob or ckt closer, otherwise nice.
1939	3487	Deluxe, presented to Bill Burgess W1BDS by Ted McElroy, Spring 1939 --> Tom W1IMQ 1991 --> Mike N1MX 2014
1939	3498	Deluxe, very good condition, one weight. No stabilizer. K5VT estate; on ebay 3/2015
1939	3506	Deluxe, one weight, wrong paddle. Otherwise very good (ebay 8/2010)
1939	3538	Deluxe, complete, nice. No dot stab.
1939	3543	Deluxe
1939	3550	Deluxe
1939	3560	Deluxe, missing knob and paddle. (on ebay jan 2012)
1939	3566	Deluxe
1939	3570	Deluxe, complete. (ebay June 2006)
1939	3582	Deluxe, from estate of Ed Combs K7VYX, now owned and rebuilt by Frank Geisler W7IS
1939	3598	Deluxe, wrong paddle otherwise complete (K5VT estate, ebay sept 2012)
1939	3602	Deluxe
1939	3607	Deluxe, home-made paddle (no knob). A couple chips on top of T-bar, otherwise nice finish. (ebay 6/2014)
1939	3616	Deluxe, complete. (ebay 2/07)
1939	3619	Deluxe
1939	3639	Deluxe, two weights, non-orig. paddle. On ebay feb, march 2015
1939	3642	Deluxe, missing knob, no ckt closer
1939	3645	Deluxe, one weight & screws by W2GFF. Vibroplex paddle. Marbleite finish is gone. Terry K4RX 11/07
1939	3657	Deluxe, excellent condition, both weights etc. (sold on ebay 9/2013)
1939	3661	Deluxe, (ex-Murray Willer; ex-KK4DW; now Fernando N2FQ)
1939	3663	Deluxe, missing knob
1939	3666	Deluxe
1939	3676	Deluxe

- 1939 3683 Deluxe, complete, nice condition (K5VT estate 2010)
- 1939 3708 Deluxe
- 1939 3710 Deluxe, complete, both weights, excellent condition. With box. Jan. 2015
N3CTC
- 1939 3727 Deluxe, one weight (missing screw). on ebay jan, feb, april 2015

The Standard, models did not have a circuit closer or dot stabilizer. Notes to that effect are only for confirmation.

- 1939 ---- Standard, no serial number on plate (NR5Q)
- 1939 ---- Standard, no serial no. on plate; one weight. Good cond. (Bryan, KB0A, Jan 2013)
- 1939 6306 Standard, Good condition, both weights. ebay nov 2014. Gary W5GNB 4/2015. Del W8KJP, sold on ebay 4/2015
- 1939 6317 Standard
- 1939 6405 Standard
- 1939 6419 Standard, one weight, missing knob. on ebay 3/2012
- 1939 6421 Standard, on ebay 2/07 by the Pavak Museum. Nice, complete, chipped paddle at forward screw.
- 1939 6460 Standard, Thos Nelson W6EO, purchased 1939 in Bakersfield CA at a shop owned by Cletis, a ham, Mac was the only brand bug he carried.
- 1939 6494 Standard, complete; broken paddle, some rust. KN1K 9/07. Restored, very nice, Paul G4AFU 3/2015 --> Ed K2ZE (estate) --> Bryan K2BLC, on ebay 4/2015
- 1939 6502 Standard, no dot stab or ckt closer. Replacement paddle, otherwise complete. (ebay 5/09)
- 1939 6523 Standard, thin dot stab, no ckt closer. One weight, custom paddle. With steel McElroy carrying case both tagged W7EQC
Fred Kistler from 1940s (W1IMQ collection)
- 1939 6538 Standard, no dot stab, no ckt closer (ex-Tom Perera W1TP, now Boris Svagelj S57LO)
- 1939 6577 Standard, no dot stab. 1 weight, wrong paddle (ebay 3/09 ex-Don Iverson)
- 1939 6602 Standard, no dot stab. nice cond, both weights, with box. (ebay 8/2013 --> Jim N5KY)
- 1939 6618 Standard
- 1939 6673 Standard, w/box & modern? cord
- 1939 6676 Standard, w/ box and adv paper / on ebay 12/2011 with box
- 1939 6679 Standard
- 1939 6692 Standard, nice condition. Chipped paddle. W1IMQ 5/2012 #512BRG; Fabio IK0IXI 7/2012
- 1939 6727 Standard, excellent condition. Pete W5PEH (ex-Richard Maxwell Jr K3BL SK, his widow put it on ebay 6/08; on ebay 8/09)
- 1939 6736 Standard, exc. condition, weight screws missing. Ebay 2/2013 -> Mark M6BRN
- 1939 6737 Standard, complete, good condition, crack in paddle (ebay 8/2010)

1939	6743	Standard
1939	6756	Standard
1939	6758	Standard, mint w/ box (Randy AG4NA)
1939	6775	Standard, one weight, non-original paddles (serial no. 5 stamped over a 4) W1IMQ 4/1993
1939	6799	Standard
1939	6811	Standard, one weight, missing knob and orig. paddle. On ebay feb.2015, april 2015
1939	6851	Standard, one weight, chipped paddle (Ron W9EOA)
1939	6863	Standard
1939	6881	Standard, nice condition. K5VT estate (on ebay 5/12)
1939	6886	Standard, (Dave WA3LKN)
1939	6890	Standard
1939	6911	Standard, pendulum (and weights) totally missing. On ebay 5/2010

NOTES: (See the Mac-Key page for identification photos)

- A. 1935 models: The "Shallow vee" is the earlier model with the fixed contact connector bars meeting high on the frame, forming a Shallow (large) included angle. On the late 1935 "deep vee" variation the bars meet low on the frame forming a deep or smaller included angle.
- B. GAD, GA: During the 1935 model run the lower lever pivot hole in the base, previously a blind hole accessed from above, was extended fully through the base, obliterating the final letter in the abbreviation of "guaranteed" in the cast lettering under the base. Originally reading GAD, it then read GA followed by the hole.
- C. The 1934, 1935 and early 1936 bugs had Two paddles. Later bugs had the usual thumb paddle and finger knob.
- D. 1936A split connector bar: The U-bar holding the fixed contacts was in two pieces (each "L" shaped) on the very early 1936 models.
- E. 1936A, B: Early bugs through the 1936A had a cast brass lever pivot assembly. During the 1936 model run, the main (or dot) and dash levers were cut from steel bar stock, creating the 1936B and later models. It still retained separate pivot points for the main (dot) and dash levers. (See 1938B, below.)
- F. The "x" (as in 1936x) indicates that I am lacking information to fully classify the key.
- G. The "1937" models are civilian models of the Navy bug. There are three (possibly four) known variations, which are identified by the legend on the left side.
- H. 1938A, B: Part way through the 1938 models McElroy changed the steel-bar pivot from having separate pivot points for the main (dot) and dash levers, to the Vibroplex "bent-lug" design having a common pivot for both levers, resulting in the 1938B and following models.
- (H, cont'd) 1938B Standard, : Notations that it has no dot stabilizer or circuit closer does not mean that it should, it merely serves to verify that this model was not so supplied.

--J. The "dot stabilizer" (dot spring pre-tensioner) used on the 1938 Deluxe models came in two styles. The early large style has the tensioning finger set in a block on the pendulum and the dot contact attached to the block. The later thin style holds the tensioning finger only, the dot contact is separately attached to the pendulum.

Mac-Key bug weights

Key collector Tom Perera reminded me that, like a lot of bugs, many Mac-Keys are found missing their pendulum weights, so at his suggestion I am including this information on McElroy bug weights for those who may want to make their own. First I note that the Mac-Key pendulum diameter is 3/16", so that weights for the Vibroplex bugs (pendulum diameter 5/32") will not fit unless they are drilled out. In any case, the Vibroplex weights (5/8" diameter) are smaller than even the smallest Mac-Key weight (3/4" diameter).

All Mac-Key weights should be drilled to fit a round 3/16" diameter pendulum. The weights are brass. The earliest Mac-Key weights are unplated; some in 1935 were chrome plated, some following ones were cadmium plated, and pretty much all of the later weights were chrome plated.

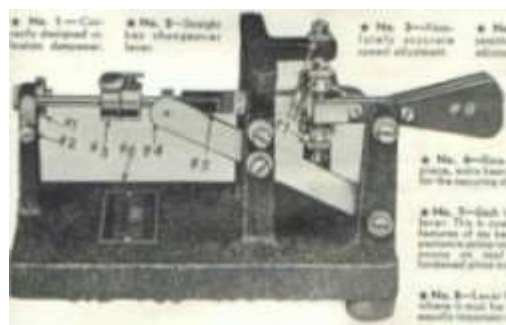
-- Early Mac-Key weight (1934 to early '36 with split connector bar): 1" diameter, 3/8" thick.

-- Mid Mac-Key weight (1936 to 1939 models): 7/8" diameter, 5/16" thick.

-- Late Mac-Key weight (A-400, P-500, S-600): 3/4" diameter, 1/4" thick.

These sizes are typical for the years and models stated but not always strictly followed.

1934 model In late 1934, Ted McElroy came out with his first telegraph key. This bug is shown here in the ad from the December 1934 issue of QST magazine. Not many were made as McElroy soon added an improvement to the design (see the 1935 model). He then "recalled and changed over about 100 [1934 model] keys" (R/9 Magazine, February 1935). It is more likely that he traded the owner a new 1935 model for the 1934s and then either modified or destroyed the earlier models. Brass nameplate. Note the *single* angled, cantilevered steel bar as viewed from the left side



1934 model Here is a photo of a 1934 Mac-Key. It can be readily distinguished from later Mac-Keys by the cantilevered bar holding the fixed dot contact. A small clip at the damper post (see below) can be used to lock the pendulum and the key can be turned on its left side and operated as a straight key; this feature was continued through the 1936 model.

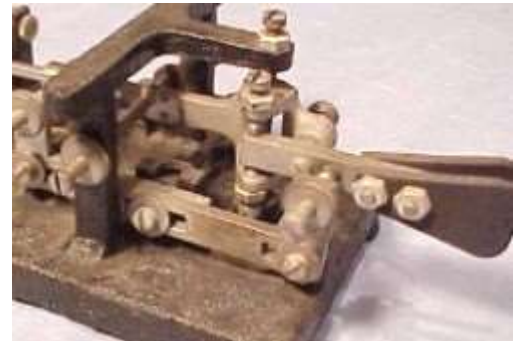


The cast legend found on the bottom of the 1934 - 35 - 36 models identifies the early keys as a Mac Key, and its maker T.R. McElroy as the world's fastest radio telegrapher. The very top line (obscured on some castings) indicates that a patent was applied for. That may be so, but one was never issued. The date 9-34 appears on all of the first three models, causing some to think that the later '35 and '36 are a 1934 bug. On the 1934 and early 1935 models the abbreviation in the center line was "GAD" (for guaranteed).



Late '35 and all '36 models have the lower pivot screw accessible from the bottom, creating a hole and eliminating the last letter, and the abbreviation appears as "GA."

This is the cast brass lever pivot assembly found on the 1934, 35 and (shown here) early 1936 models.



The pendulum clip on the 1934 and 1935 models was a small metal tab held to the damper support with a screw. The clip on the 1936 models was wire (shown here on a 1936A with a special extensible pendulum for slow speed). Click on the photo for another view.



The nameplate used on the 1934, 35 and early 1936 models measured about 7/8 x 2-3/8 inches, and was brass.



1935 model Within a month of initial production, McElroy modified the 1934 model to give greater rigidity to the fixed dot contact by adding another cast post, and connecting the fixed contacts with two bars forming a Vee where they meet at the pivot frame. The resulting 1935 model is shown above right. Shown is an early 1935, with "Shallow Vee" bars; on later 1935 models the bars met lower on the pivot frame upright resulting in a "deep Vee" variation.



1936A model The 1936 models are identified by the U-shaped connector between the fixed dot and dash contacts. On the very earliest 1936 model, the connector bar is in two pieces (two L-shaped bars joined at the center to form a U) as shown here. I call this variation the "split U-bar."



1936A model The connecting wire terminals on the earliest split U-bar 1936A bugs. They are conveniently located on the right side. Unfortunately, this feature would be gone when the one-piece U-bar appeared. Only about a half dozen of the early split U-bar 1936A bugs are known.



1936A model This is the later, common style of U-bar found on 1936 Mac-Keys. It is one piece. The wire terminals were now far apart, one on the damper post and the other at the front left U-bar mount.



Sometime early in the 1936 model run the small nameplate became aluminum, as shown here.



1936B model: type 2 pivot. The late 1936 Mac-Keys (1936B models) have their lever pivot formed from steel bar stock. There are still separate pivots for the dot and dash levers.



1936B model with terminals McElroy finally realised that the location of the wire terminals on the Mac Key was inconvenient, so he started putting them on the base of the late 1936B models. He also made them available to Mac Key owners who would make the modification themselves on earlier bugs.



Junior This model used sheet metal for the base and pivot/contact support. It was identified by a decal on top of the pivot support (which is often faint, or missing). The Junior first had the type A cast pivot, and later the type B steel bar pivot.



Navy model Until the mid-1930s it was U.S. Navy policy that "Such 'bug' type keys as there are in use throughout the service are the private property of the individual radioman." Whether it was an earlier inquiry from the Imperial Japanese Navy for an order of Mac Keys, or the publicity McElroy generated from that, in 1936 McElroy was awarded a contract to provide speed keys to the U.S. Navy. The military designation is CMK-26009. The design, with its new damper style and having the wire terminals on the base, begins to resemble the popular Vibroplex keys. Cast into the left side is the legend "PROPERTY OF US NAVY" (this was probably a contract requirement, since the Bunnell Navy keys also have a cast property identification).



Navy nameplate This large-size steel nameplate on the CMK-26009 used McElroy's given name, Theodore. It was, in many respects, similar to the plate that would soon be used on the 1938 and 1939 models.



1937 model The civilian version of the Navy key. Starting with left-over Navy base castings, the small aluminum nameplate was affixed, and "U.S. NAVY" was ground off so that the legend reads "PROPERTY OF." Presumably the owner would scratch his name or call letters into the blank area. There are four known variations in the cast legend on the 1937 model:

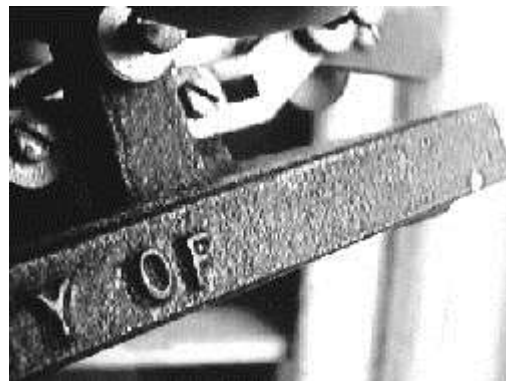
1. PROPERTY OF remainder ground off.
2. PROPERTY OF remainder cast blank.
3. Side cast blank.
4. MFD IN BOSTON MASS USA.



See the serial number pages which will give an idea of the scarcity of certain 1937 variations.

1937 model: PROPERTY OF. The most common civilian version of the Navy key is that on which "U.S. NAVY" was ground off so that the legend reads "PROPERTY OF".

On a few of the "PROPERTY OF" keys, that is the only lettering that was cast; the remainder of the original legend was cast blank. (Sometimes the grinding on the common variety was done so well that it takes a sharp eye to spot this scarce variation.)



1938B Deluxe model McElroy simplified the casting for his 1938 model, eliminating the cast damper assembly, and he used a new, large steel nameplate. (The nameplate identifies the model as either Standard, or Deluxe.) All 1938 models came in Standard, and Deluxe varieties. First came the Deluxe, which sported a circuit closer, and a "marbleite" finish on the base. The early 1938 models (1938A) still have the type 2 double pivot lever assembly. The later ones have a single pivot for both levers (type 3) as found on other bugs of the era, and as shown here.



Another feature of the 1938(A and B) Deluxe bug is the "dot stabilizer." This pre-tensioning finger comes in two varieties: an early large style, in which the block carries both the dot spring and the tensioning finger...



And a later thin style, in which the block carries only the tensioning finger.

For more information on the "dot stabilizer," see page 28.



Left-handed 1938B Deluxe model While a left-handed 1936 model had its own casting, a later "lefty" was simply a modified Mac Key: The cast base tabs holding the fixed contact connector bar were knocked off, contact posts were installed, holes for the new damper location were drilled, and the nameplate was put in a slightly different location on the base. One way to tell a factory modification is that the original nameplate holes were never drilled, as seen by the locator dimples underneath the base.



1938B Standard, model Six month after introducing the Deluxe, McElroy advertised the Standard, model. This is finished in black crackle, and has no circuit closer or dot stabilizer. By the time the Standard, came out, the separate pivots for the dot and dash levers were eliminated in favor of a single, Vibroplex-style pivot lever (thus the "B" designation). The dash lever has bent lugs and shares the pivot with the main (dot) lever.



Note that the 1938 Deluxe is found with both style pivots (that is, A and B varieties), while the 1938 Standard, model is almost always found in only the B variation. Again, see the serial number page for details.

1939 model This was the last Mac-Key to carry the large nameplate. It is very similar to the 1938 model, but the T-bar or pivot frame risers are much wider, having a "hump" that extends beyond the upper horizontal top bar. This was available in two versions, the Standard, with a black wrinkle finish, and the Deluxe, in Marbleite (shown here). The Deluxe came with a circuit closer, but typically do not have the dot stabilizer (a few early ones do have the thin stabilizer).



A-400 model. This was a short-lived (and resultingly scarce) interim model between the earlier "T-bar" Mac-Keys and the P-500. The A-400 still has a pivot frame much like its predecessors, but without the extension tabs on the horizontal bar. And for the first time we see simple posts holding the fixed contacts. The Mac-Key is beginning to take on the appearance of its more successful rival, the Vibroplex.



No. 500 and No. 600 models.

P-500 model. Finally, McElroy's bugs became similar to everyone else's semiautomatic keys. The base and frame are cast and finished in black crackle paint. This is a good, useful bug with nothing special about it except for one thing: the McElroy name on the nameplate. Cosmetic changes were made when McElroy offered this model to the Army Signal Corps. Originally, it had a black wrinkle base and chrome frame. Then the base acquired a smooth gray finish (the pivot support frame was still chrome plated). The model name had changed to **CP-500**, and then later to model **500-742**. (In keeping with models of other 1940s McElroy apparatus, the "742" likely means July 1942.)



S-600 model The S-600 model, the "Super Stream-Speed," was the bug McElroy said he'd never make. "It is very poor practice to have a chrome or nickel plated base on a key," he wrote in a March 1938 flyer. He must have remembered this comment when he came out with the S-600 because he said the chrome had "a bluish tinge to prevent glare."

This key comes in two models, the S-600-PC with platinum contacts and the S-600-SC with silver contacts. It also comes in three variations of mounting holes in the base: none, two, and three.



McElroy Model S-600 with "ribs" or grooved lines on the curved frame supporting the lever pivot shaft. This chrome key may or may not have a nameplate



Telegraph Apparatus CP-810

Ted McElroy's Chicago partnership, Telegraph Apparatus Company made this bug which some call the "Hole in the Wall" bug because of the round hole in the frame. Was available in gray crackle finish or chrome plated.



The Dot Stabilizer

The dot stabilizer is a device intended to eliminate "split dots" from semi-automatic telegraph keys, or "bugs." This common fault of bugs occurs when the dot contact on the pendulum (or vibrating arm) of a bug wipes its corresponding fixed contact (mounted to a post on the base) when it makes or breaks contact, rather than firmly making or deliberately breaking contact.

The pendulum dot contact must be mounted on a spring to allow the pendulum to freely oscillate, even during the make-break cycles of the contacts. But at the moment the contacts make or break, there is no tension on the spring, so the initial make or break is uncertain and results in a scratchy dot (or a "ffft," as McElroy said in his ads).

By not allowing the spring tension to fall to zero, the make is more solid and the break more abrupt. This is done by the "dot stabilizer," which is simply a metal finger positioned to apply tension to the pendulum dot spring. McElroy added such a device to the 1938 Deluxe model. He also sold the dot stabilizer separately for 50 cents, so you may find it on other Mac-Keys, added after the fact by their owners.

The early McElroy device is a metal block that screws to the pendulum and holds the finger; this is the "thick" model (about 3/8" or 9 mm wide as measured along the pendulum axis). The dot spring attaches to the early style, mounted vertically.



The later style has a "thin" block (about 1/8" or 3mm wide). With this, the dot spring is separately mounted to the pendulum in the usual manner.



While the McElroy stabilizers may be the most common and best known, stabilizers do show up on other bugs. I found this one on a 1907 Vibroplex. It looks like a cross between the two McElroy models: the dot spring is mounted in its usual orientation, horizontally, but is attached to the stabilizer. My guess is that this is not a Vibroplex item but rather an aftermarket doo-dad offered to telegraphers by another company (or basement tinkerer).



Many handy hobbyists also made their own dot stabilizers. An article by Noel Bevan GW8IH in "Morsum Magnificat" nr. 16, Summer 1990 (p. 7) gave details on his "bug dot damper." He found it was better in eliminating the scratchiness of the dot contact than the common practice of stuffing a piece of sponge rubber in the contact spring elbow.

Update August 2014: Jim, W0EB, has announced that he will make a dot stabilizer to order for your round-rod pendulum bug (Vibroplex Original etc) or flat pendulum bug (Lightning Bug, Vibroplex J-36, etc) at around \$20 ppd in the USA (foreign shipping based on your location). Same price for an aluminum or (while supply lasts) brass block.



Shown is a brass stabilizer on a Johnson Speed-X (click on the photo for a larger view); see an aluminum one on a Vibroplex Blue Racer and a 1936A Mac-Key. You can email Jim at w0eb@cox.net